

REMEMBER:

- Never assume your vehicle can stop a bullet.
- Resistance to the robber's demands may escalate the danger of the situation and increase the risk of personal harm to you.
- Avoid reckless heroics. Such actions may endanger you as well as innocent bystanders.
- Your best course of action is to plan ahead and be prepared for all possible situations.

DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM

The Montgomery County Department of Police is doing everything it can to safeguard you from this type of crime. However, you can greatly increase your own safety by following the advice given in this brochure. Remember-plan ahead, stay alert and be prepared for all possible situations.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency (Police).....301-279-8000
Community Services Officers:
Rockville.....301-279-1438
Bethesda.....301-657-0119
Silver Spring.....301-565-5761
Wheaton.....301-217-4408
Germantown.....301-840-2650

Montgomery County Department of Police
Community Outreach Section
2350 Research Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-840-2585



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

CARJACKING



Don't Be the Next Victim

Carjacking - stealing a car by force or threat of force.

Analyzing carjackings, there appear to be no specific trends or patterns as to the type of car stolen, and the gender of the victim seems to make little difference. Many carjackings have occurred in parking lots, others have occurred at various locations, ranging from public streets, private driveways, and service stations. A majority of these stolen vehicles have been recovered.

Motorists are vulnerable to this type of crime any time they stop their vehicles. To avoid becoming a victim, the Montgomery County Department of Police suggests the following:

BEFORE YOU GO:

- Know your route. Well-lit and well-traveled streets are generally safest.
- Have an alternate route selected in case problems develop.
- Keep your vehicle in good repair and be aware of your fuel level at all times.
- Whenever possible, don't travel alone, because - a person alone is more vulnerable.
- Keep doors locked and windows up.
- Keep valuables out of view.
- Keep car keys separate from house keys.
- Don't leave the vehicle registration, mail, bills or other materials with you home address in the vehicle.

GETTING THERE:

- Be aware of activity around you, especially persons on foot near your vehicle.
- Be suspicious of people approaching your vehicle asking for money, directions, handing out flyers, etc.
- If someone seeks your assistance (stalled vehicle, etc.), **do not** get out of your vehicle. Go to a safe location and call police.
- Travel in the center lane or the lane closest to the center of the road whenever possible.
- Leave sufficient distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you to allow yourself a way out in case of emergency.

UPON ARRIVAL:

- Park in well-lit and well-traveled areas.
- Look around for suspicious persons and possible hiding places (darken doorways, etc.) **before** turning off your engine.
- When in doubt, **do not get out of your vehicle**. Instead, drive away and park somewhere else.
- if possible, push your passenger seat forward.
- Lock your car and take your keys with you even for brief errands.
- Be especially cautious when using Automated Teller Machines (ATM).

RETURNING TO YOUR VEHICLE:

- Have your key ready to unlock your vehicle.
- Be aware of your surroundings, such as, persons loitering near your vehicle. If you feel uncomfortable, return to the store/building you just left and request a security escort or call the police.
- Check out your vehicle, inside and out before you get in. (Is the passenger seat still in the forward position?)
- Be aware of any tampering which may have been done to your vehicle while it was parked.
- If you think someone has tampered with your vehicle, don't get in. Notify police, parking attendant or security guard for assistance.

IF YOU BECOME A CARJACKING VICTIM:

Submission and surrender of your property is usually the best course of action. Your personal safety – not the loss of property – must always remain your primary concern! In many cases, the robber has displayed or threatened the use of a firearm and therefore may have the ability to inflict serious injury or death.